

RE:

[REDACTED]  
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE;  
PUBLIC CORRUPTION MATTERS;  
OO: CV  
CV 194-0 194D-413 Sub 9

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On January 20, 1993, and January 25, 1993, [REDACTED]  
was contacted by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] and provided  
the following information: w/m

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SOURCE is aware that [REDACTED] has an associate by the  
name of [REDACTED]

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SOURCE is aware that [REDACTED]  
is also associated with a [REDACTED]

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# Judicial race unites former political foes

By Phil Trexler  
News-Herald Staff Writer

The last time Steven C. LaTourette and Michael A. Cicconetti shared the same platform, LaTourette called his then-political opponent a "DWI attorney" who "wouldn't recognize a plea bargain if it were to come up and slap him in the face."

But time and a new election apparently have ways of changing things. Nowadays, the two share a platform with a common goal: seeing Painesville Municipal Court Judge Neil R. Wilson become a one-term justice.

"I think it shows that when you run a good, clean campaign and the other person wins, it doesn't mean you can't work together," Cicconetti said Tuesday.

"I hope it's a compliment to have such a person involved in my campaign. But he's not the only one. Others have come out and gotten involved. If people want a choice for judge, this is probably the last opportunity they'll have for the next six years."

Because no Republican has surfaced in the judicial race, the Cicconetti-Wilson winner will likely go unopposed in November and win the bench.

LaTourette, a Republican who whipped Cicconetti five years ago in the 1988 race for Lake County prosecutor, is pictured shaking hands with Cicconetti inside the Democratic lawyer's recently released campaign literature.

In the pamphlet, LaTourette does not come out and endorse Cicconetti. In fact, all voters get is the photo with a nearby caption reading, "We need a system that works together." LaTourette is not quoted in any of the pamphlet's four pages.



LaTourette



Cicconetti

"First of all," LaTourette said of his support, "we were unable to field a Republican candidate in the Painesville Municipal Court race, so like President Bush once said, we didn't have a dog in the fight. This caused me to examine who was running in the primary and most importantly, who is most likely to cooperate with others in order to help the public. All this wasteful bickering causes gridlock."

He added, "In 1988, we both ran a hard campaign and I was

fortunate to come out ahead. But it doesn't mean I don't respect him as a man or an attorney and our past race doesn't mean I question whether he'll be a good judge. I think he'll make a fine judge."

As a Republican, LaTourette is not alone in jumping party lines in support of Cicconetti. Also spotted sharing the camera lens in a group photo with Cicconetti are Andy Totin, Lake County clerk of courts; Wendall Walker, Painesville City Council's president; John F. Clair, a Painesville councilman; and Phil Haskell, a Perry Township trustee. All are Republicans.

Wilson said he is neither surprised nor impressed with the party crossovers.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Painesville

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or

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"It's been apparent for some time now that there's a small group of individuals trying to manipulate the campaign for their own purposes," Wilson said.

"I think it's strictly politics, but strange politics. I think, frankly, the voters are smarter than my opponent gives them credit for. (Having LaTourette) is no benefit to him. I don't know if it will backfire. I just know the voters are smart enough to see through this."

LaTourette said he has not been criticized by other GOP leaders for supporting a Democrat. He likens the Republican support for Cicconetti to the same stream of bi-partisan support that coalesced to put Republican Lake County Sheriff Daniel A. Dunlap into the office held by Republican incumbent Sheriff Patrick Walsh.

"The days voting straight party lines are over," LaTourette said. "If you look at the past several elections, voters are looking for the best candidate, regardless of party affiliation."

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MAY PRIMARY

# Lawyer edges Judge Wilson

Cicconetti prevails  
in Painesville race

By **STEPHEN KOFF**

PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

## PAINESVILLE

Lawyer Michael A. Cicconetti appears destined to get the title of Painesville Municipal Court judge, edging out controversial incumbent Judge Neil R. Wilson in yesterday's Democratic primary by 193 votes.

With no Republican to challenge him in November, Cicconetti is practically assured of getting the judgeship in the general election. The term lasts six years and pays about \$80,000. Cicconetti beat Wilson 3,953 to 3,760 votes, according to unofficial results last night.

"I really do believe it (the victory) goes to people believing in good government, in working together and not having the fighting," Cicconetti, 42, said after the votes were counted. As campaign volunteers and friends were waiting at a victory party at the Elks Club in Painesville, Cicconetti stayed at his office waiting for the final figures before venturing to the celebration.

Wilson, meanwhile, said he intends to retire from politics after his term ends. "At the end of my term, I will return to my private firm and retire from public life," he said.

Both candidates ran high-visibility races big on political endorsements, yard signs and occasional bouts of acrimony. Cicconetti had characterized Wilson as a free-spender who had nearly doubled the court's expenses since 1989. Wilson had called Cicconetti "Lake County's most notorious drunken-driving lawyer," in reference to Cicconetti's law practice.

"It was a tough campaign, and I have to give credit to my opponent to running the toughest campaign I've ever been in," Cicconetti said.

Cicconetti carried Grand River, Painesville and Painesville Township, North Perry and Perry village, and Perry Township.

SEE LAWYER/2-B

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## MAY PRIMARY



PD/C.H. PETE COPELAND

Lawyer Michael A. Cicconetti is surrounded by relatives and friends as he arrives at the Painesville Elks Club on Liberty St. for a victory party.

## Lawyer

FROM/1-B

Wilson took Concord Township, Leroy Township and Madison Township and had slim margins in Fairport Harbor and Madison village — by, respectively, eight votes and one vote.

Although Wilson, 49, had the endorsement of the Lake County Democratic Party, Cicconetti got backing from several prominent Republicans — among them, Lake County Prosecutor Steven C. LaTourette, one of the county's best-known officeholders. Ironically, LaTourette in 1988

beat Cicconetti in the race for prosecutor. LaTourette has fueded with Wilson over Wilson's reluctance to allow assistant county prosecutors to serve in his court.

LaTourette's support, Cicconetti said, was the key to the victory. "I think that carried me over the top," Cicconetti said. "It goes to show that people are more interested in people working together than in party politics. I really think I can attribute the small margins (of



Wilson

victory) to that."

It was not known last night how many Republicans crossed over party lines to vote for Cicconetti, but Cicconetti guessed there were a lot. During the campaign, Cicconetti, a Painesville Township trustee, said the choice was between improving the court system or keeping a bloated budget and distractive political fights with other public officials, including the Painesville City Council.

The judge's courtroom doubles as the City Council chambers. Wilson two years ago used his authority to take down photographs of council members and city bulletins, saying he did not wish to look at City Council members' pictures in his court.